

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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R 222312Z APR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
USSAG
CINCPAC
USCG
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
USDEL JEC PARIS
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:PFOR, XC, US
SUBJECT:APRIL 22 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. AMBASSADOR MARTIN, IN US NEWS AND WR INTERVIEW,
SAYS HE DID NOT INTEND TO KEEP THE TRUTH FROM SEN.
KENNEDY WHEN HE ADVISED AGAINST GIVING "AN HONEST
ANSWER TO HIS QUERY ABOUT SVN", BUT MEANT THAT THE
REQUESTED INFO SHOULD FIRST GO TO THE TWO SENATE COMMITTEES
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THAT HAVE PRIMARY CONCERN FOR VN POLICY. AMB. ADDS
THAT HE IS "IMPRESSED" THAT KENNEDY HAS GIVEN "RATHER
FREE REIN" TO HIS SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF WHICH,"IT SEEMED
TO ME, SOMETIMES ILL-SERVED HIM BY BEING MORE CONCERNED

WITH HEADLINES" THAN THE SEARCH FOR ACCURACY AND INSIGHT THAT HAS BEEN THE HALLMARK OF THE "HIGHLY COMPETENT AND PROFESSIONAL STAFFS" OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES (WP).

2. MIL SOURCES SAY COMMUNIST ARTILLERY AND GROUND ATTACKS STOP 1000-MAN ARVN COLUMN MAKING SECOND ATTEMPT IN WEEK TO RELIEVE ENCIRCLED DUC HUE RANGER CAMP 35 MILES NW OF SAIGON (REUTER, NYT). FIGHTING IS HEAVY BETWEEN SAIGON AND KHMER BORDER (AP, SUN). COMMUNISTS SHOOT DOWN THIRD GVN SPOTTER PLANE IN THREE DAYS NEAR DUC HUE. MIL SOURCES SAY COMMUNISTS BLOW UP THREE

BRIDGES NEAR DANANG BUT DRIVEN OFF WHILE TRYING TO DEMOLISH FOURTH (UPI, WP).

3. PL SPOKESMAN IN VIENTIANE SAYS EMMET KAY, LAST KNOWN US POW IN INDOCHINA, WILL BE RELEASED IN SIX WEEKS, WITHIN THE 60-DAY PERIOD AFTER GOVT. FORMATION AS SPECIFIED IN C-F AGREEMENT. PL OFFICIAL IN FEB. REPORTEDLY TOLD THAI STUDENT DEL THAT PL HOLDS 640 THAI "VOLUNTEERS" WHO FOUGHT FOR RLG (AP, SUN).

4. FRANJOLA (AP, WP) FROM PP QUOTES GKR COMMAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT REBELS ROUTED 1500-MAN FANK FORCE ON KOMPONG LUONG BEACHHEAD, 23 MILES FROM PP, AFTER SAVAGE 24-HOUR ATTACK. TROOPS HAD ASSEMBLED TO RETAKE OUDONG. CASUALTIES FEARED HEAVY AND A "NUMBER" OF THE 20 APCs ON THE BEACHHEAD DESTROYED. SOME TROOPS FOUGHT WAY TO JOIN FANK GARRISON ISOLATED AT LONGVEK, 1-1/2 MILES TO NORTH. WESTERN MIL OBSERVER SEES WITHDRAWAL AS "MAJOR DEFEAT" FOR GKR. ASIAN DIPLOMAT SAYS NO WAY EXISTS TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM OUDONG AREA, SO MUST FIGHT "TO THE DEATH". WESTERN OBSERVER BELIEVES GKR COULD NOT EVACUATE TROOPS BECAUSE LACKED BOATS. FRANJOLA SEES OPTION TO SAVE TROOPS AS "MASSIVE NAVY BEACHHEAD" OR REOPENING HIGHWAY 5, CONTROLLED BY REBELS FOR 10 UNCLASSIFIED

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MILES SOUTH OF BEACHHEAD. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY NO RESCUE OPERATIONS PLANNED. MIL SOURCES SAY ENEMY HAS STRUNG WIRE AND MINES ACROSS TONLE SAP RIVER 14 MILES NORTH OF PP AND STOPPED CONVOYS SINCE TUES. WITH 15 MILES OF 25-MILE RIVER SUPPLY LINE OCCUPIED BY "INSURGENTS", FANK BEACHHEAD POSITION BECAME UNTENABLE AS REBELS BEGAN INCREASING PRESSURE (ALSO IN NYT, CHITRIB, AND SUN).

CHINA

5. USDA'S "FOREIGN AGRICULTURE" MAG, IN ARTICLE BY F. W. CROOK OF DEPT.'S ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, SEES

PROSPECTS GOOD FOR PRC FARM PRODUCTS THIS SEASON, MEANING POSSIBLE SHARP CUTBACK IN CHINA'S IMPORTS OF GRAINS AND OTHER PRODUCTS TO US. ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT UNFAVORABLE CHINESE WEATHER BETWEEN NOW AND OCT. AND INCREASED INSTABILITY IN PEKING DOMESTIC POLITICS COULD LEAD TO FURTHER SIZABLE PURCHASES FROM US EXPORTERS. CROOK SAYS FACT THAT CHINA, MAJOR FOREIGN CUSTOMER FOR US EXPORTERS, HAS SIGNED IN LAST YEAR THREE-YEAR CONTRACTS FOR GRAINS FROM CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND ARGENTINA, SUGGESTS PRC NOW REGARDS US "AS ONE OF MANY SUPPLIERS IN NORMAL TIMES BUT AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FARM IMPORTS IN DIFFICULT YEARS." SAYS REGIONAL CONFERENCES THAT

ONCE EMPHASIZED HOW TO GROW MORE WHEAT MORE EFFICIENTLY NOW ARE MORE THOROUGHLY IDEOLOGICAL. CROOK SEES CHINESE WEATHER AND POLITICAL QUESTION RELATED IN THAT DAMAGING OF GREATLY EXPANDED CHINESE WHEAT CROP BY ADVERSE WEATHER WOULD MEAN MAO REGIME WOULD HAVE TO MAKE POLITICAL DECISION WHETHER TO TIGHTEN POPULATION'S RATIONING BELTS FOR NEXT YEAR OR IMPORT TO MAINTAIN HIGHER CONSUMPTION LEVELS OF THIS DECADE WHILE DRAWING DOWN RESERVES OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE INSTEAD OF FOOD (AP, SUN).

6. NATIONAL ZOO PANDAS, HSING-HSING AND LING-LING, ALLOWED TOGETHER SATURDAY; RESULTS GRATIFYING TO ALL, ZOO OFFICIALS OPTIMISTIC THAT MATING WILL OCCUR (AP, CHITRIB).

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7. JOC HK QUOTES CANADIAN PACIFIC AIRLINES OFFICIAL SAYING ANNOUNCED MAY 4 INAUGURATION DATE FOR SERVICES FROM N. AMERICA TO CHINA WILL BE POSTPONED BECAUSE SPECIFICS ON OPERATING PROCEDURES, INCLUDING TARIFFS AND COMMUNICATIONS, NOT YET WORKED OUT; NO NEW DATE SET FOR WEEKLY SERVICE BETWEEN VANCOUVER, SHANGHAI AND PEKING.

8. DESPITE HUGE GROWTH OF OIL INDUSTRY, PRC STILL AT LEAST 80 PERCENT DEPENDENT ON COAL AS ENERGY SOURCE. RECENT PURCHASES OF COAL-MINING EQUIPMENT IN WEST SHOW GREAT IMPORTANCE CHINA ATTACHES TO COAL AND HER DETERMINATION TO MODERNIZE INDUSTRY (CSM).

9. HANS MARTENS, HEAD OF GERMAN CONSORTIUM THAT WON CONTRACT TO BUILD COLD-STRIP STEEL MILL IN WUHAN, HAILS ACHIEVEMENT, BUT NOT SURE HE WOULD WANT TO NEGOTIATE ANOTHER. NOTES CHINA'S WAY OF THINKING QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WESTERN: CHINESE DID NOT THINK ECONOMICALLY IN TERMS OF NEGOTIATION COSTS; CHINESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE LENGTHY -- ON STEEL MILL DEAL, CHINESE TECHNICAL NEGOTIATORS HAD TO AGREE

AMONG THEMSELVES ON ALMOST EVERY DETAIL, AND ENTIRE GROUP HAD TO LEARN ABOUT ALL ASPECTS OF PROJECT; CHINESE WERE EXTREMELY TOUGH ON COMMERCIAL SIDE OF NEGOTIATIONS; THEY FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT THEY ARE BIG COUNTRY IN WORLD, MARTENS SAYS, AND ARE UNWILLING TO MAKE CONTRACT UNDER PRESSURE. MARTENS EXPECTS NO PROBLEM WITH CHINESE LABOR, AND DOUBTS THAT NEW CULTURAL REVOLUTION, "OR WHATEVER IT IS," WILL AGAIN DISRUPT WUHAN OPERATIONS, BECAUSE PROJECT IS TOO IMPORTANT TO PRC ECONOMY, ADDING SOME 25 PERCENT TO ITS ROLLED STEEL CAPACITY

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10. MAKARIOS WILL PAY PEKING OFFICIAL VISIT MAY 17 AT INVITATION OF PRC, ACCORDING NCNA (REUTER, CHITRIB; WP).

11. NYT TAIPEI REPORTS LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND RESIDENT JAPANESE HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTIONS AGAINST
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ANY VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS OF ANTI-JAPANESE FEELING FOLLOWING SEVERING OF AIR LINKS BETWEEN GRC AND JAPAN. TAIPEI JAPANESE SCHOOL TO REMAIN CLOSED SEVERAL DAYS SO CHILDREN WILL NOT HAVE TO LEAVE HOME, AND POLICE ARE PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PATROLS NEAR JAPANESE PROPERTY.

JAPAN

12. LDP LEADERS MET IN SUNDAY EMERGENCY SESSION SEEKING TO RESTORE CIVAIR SERVICE WITH ROC (NYT, PHINQ).

13. CHITRIB'S KIRK, IN TOKYO, FOUND TENSE AND TIRED APPEARANCE OF PASSENGERS DISEMBARKING FROM LAST JAL FLIGHT OUT OF ROC SUNDAY ILLUSTRATING DEEP TENSIONS BETWEEN TOKYO AND TAIPEI AFTER SIGNING OF JAPAN-PRC CIVAIR PACT. SAYS ROC'S "DETERMINATION SHOCKED JAPANESE OFFICIALS, WHO HAD ANTICIPATED NO REAL PROBLEM" IN NEGOTIATING NEW TERMS FOR JAPAN-ROC ROUTES. NOTES RADIO TAIPEI SAID SUNDAY THAT RELATIONS WITH JAPAN WILL GROW MORE INTIMATE, AND THAT JAPAN-ROC FLIGHTS STILL POSSIBLE ON EIGHT OTHER CARRIERS; BUT RADIO TAIPEI "QUALIFIED THESE REMARKS WITH WHAT APPEARED AS A FACE-SAVING EXPLANATION--THAT THE PEOPLE OF BOTH COUNTRIES WERE BOUND BY THEIR MUTUAL RESENTMENT OF TANAKA'S AND OHIRA'S 'STOOPING BEFORE THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS.'"

14. CITING POLITICAL REVERBERATIONS STIRRING INSIDE LDP OVER ROC'S REJECTION OF JAPAN-PRC CIVAIR PACT, CSM'S POND, IN TOKYO, REPORTS QUESTION BEING

SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED THERE IS WHETHER ROC DOES "ACTUALLY WIELD ENOUGH POLITICAL CLOUT THESE DAYS" TO CAUSE FALL OF TANAKA GOVT. SEES TANAKA AND OHIRA NOW FACING "THEIR TOUGHEST POLITICAL BATTLE SINCE THEY ASSUMED OFFICE." NOTES IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC EFFECT OF ROC'S AIR BREAKOFF MOVE WILL BE JAL'S LOSS OF PROFITABLE ROUTE AT TIME WHEN IT ALREADY IS EXPECTED TO BE IN RED THIS YEAR FOR OTHER REASONS FOR FIRST TIME IN 12 YEARS.

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15. WP CARRIES REPORT OF MANCHESTER GUARDIAN'S WHYMANT CITING CONCERN OF LAST JAL PASSENGERS OVER

JAPANESE TOURISTS WHO FAILED TO CATCH LAST FLIGHT. THEY SAID MANY JAPANESE TOURISTS HAD SHUT THEMSELVES IN TAIPEI HOTEL ROOMS FEARING ANTI-JAPANESE MOVEMENT, IN MOOD COMPARABLE TO THAT WHEN GOJ RECOGNIZED PRC.

16. KIRK (CHITRIB), IN TOKYO, FINDS JAPANESE AND SOVIETS APPEAR LIKELY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON EXPLOITATION OF SIBERIAN RESOURCES, SETTING IN MOTION OPERATION THAT COULD TURN SIBERIA INTO WORLD'S MOST PRODUCTIVE ENERGY SOURCE. JAPANESE SOURCES SAY THEY'RE READY TO OPEN UP COKING COAL MINES, BUILD RAIL SYSTEM TO MAIN LINE OF TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY, AND THAT TWO SIDES ARE NEAR COMPROMISE ON INTEREST RATES AND ON PRICE JAPAN WILL PAY FOR COAL. BOTH JAPANESE AND US SOURCES REMAIN "EXTREMELY PESSIMISTIC" ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR OPENING TYUMEN OIL FIELD. CSM'S GRULIOW, IN MOSCOW, REPORTS SOME SOVIET OFFICIALS HAVE SUGGESTED JAPAN COLLABORATE IN BUILDING VAST TANK-CAR SYSTEM TO HAUL W. SIBERIAN OIL TO PACIFIC BY RAIL, ACCORDING UNOFFICIAL JAPANESE SOURCES. FEELS TOKYO'S RESPONSE MAY DEPEND PARTLY ON PRC'S REACTION TO PROJECT.

AUSTRALIA

17. WP'S JACK ANDERSON, CITING HIS RECENT REPORT THAT SLAUGHTER OF RARE AUSTRALIAN KANGAROOS WAS ENCOURAGED BY INTERIOR DEPT'S FAILURE TO BAN IMPORTATION OF THEIR SKINS, SAYS THAT WITHIN TEN DAYS INTERIOR MOVED TO PROTECT "FURRY MARSUPIALS."

COMMENT/ANALYSIS

VIETNAM

18. IN ANOTHER ARTICLE DATED HANOI, SUN'S PARKS (4/20) REPORTS NVN "GINGERLY APPROACHING" SERIES OF TOUGH POLITICAL DECISIONS THAT WILL LIKELY DETERMINE

ITS POLICIES FOR DECADE OR MORE. BASIC QUESTION
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WILL BE WAR OR PEACE; THOUGH INTERIM DECISION PUTS
RECONSTRUCTION FIRST, DECISION IS SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW.
OTHER ISSUES INVOLVE DIRECTION AND SPEED FOR DEVELOPING
COUNTRY INTO SOCIALIST STATE, TOUCHING ON SENSITIVE
DOMESTIC POLITICAL QUESTIONS. ENLARGEMENT OF AGRIC
COOPS, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD PROBABLY GREATLY DIMINISH
TRADITIONAL VILLAGE AUTONOMY. APPARENTLY DESPITE
MISGIVINGS OF SOME SENIOR OFFICIALS

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